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NSU student organizes local event to support Kony 2012 campaign

By: **Alyssa Sterkel**
Features Editor

Lauren Adames, sophomore biology major, is the organizer of Cover the Night Fort Lauderdale, one in a series of nationwide campaigns originated by Invisible Children Inc., whose goal is to raise awareness about Joseph Kony, the most wanted war criminal by the International Crimes Court.

On April 20, from 8:30 p.m. - 4:30 a.m., participants will "cover Fort Lauderdale" with Kony paraphernalia—including flyers, posters, banners and bumper stickers.

Kony is the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan guerrilla group, which kidnaps Ugandan children and turns them into child soldiers and sex slaves.

Invisible Children, Inc. has created a series of documentaries regarding Kony. The most recent video was released on March 15, which included the "call to action" initiative for the Cover the Night event.

Adames said, "After watching Invisible Children's KONY 2012 video, I knew it would play a large

role in my life. I wanted to help these Invisible Children in any way I could. The nearest event was in Miami, so I took it upon myself to create an event page [on Facebook] for the Fort Lauderdale area."

Adames said that the event's reach will be broad. She has people stationed in Downtown Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Davie, Plantation, Sunrise, and other South Florida cities.

Penelope Shiruani, freshman biology major, said she wants to participate in the event because it's for a good cause.

"A lot of people don't know what's going on, so we need to do what we can to educate them, and Cover the Night is a great way to do that," said Shiruani.

Since the release of the KONY 2012 video, which has been viewed more than 80 million times on YouTube, accusations have been made against Invisible Children Inc., including concerns that only 32 percent of the funds raised by the organization actually go to funding the organization's mission, that there

SEE KONY 2



Students protesting against Joseph Kony's war crimes.

IMAGE COURTESY OF [HTTP://TH09.DEVIANTART.NET](http://TH09.DEVIANTART.NET)

Bill could lower Florida car insurance rates

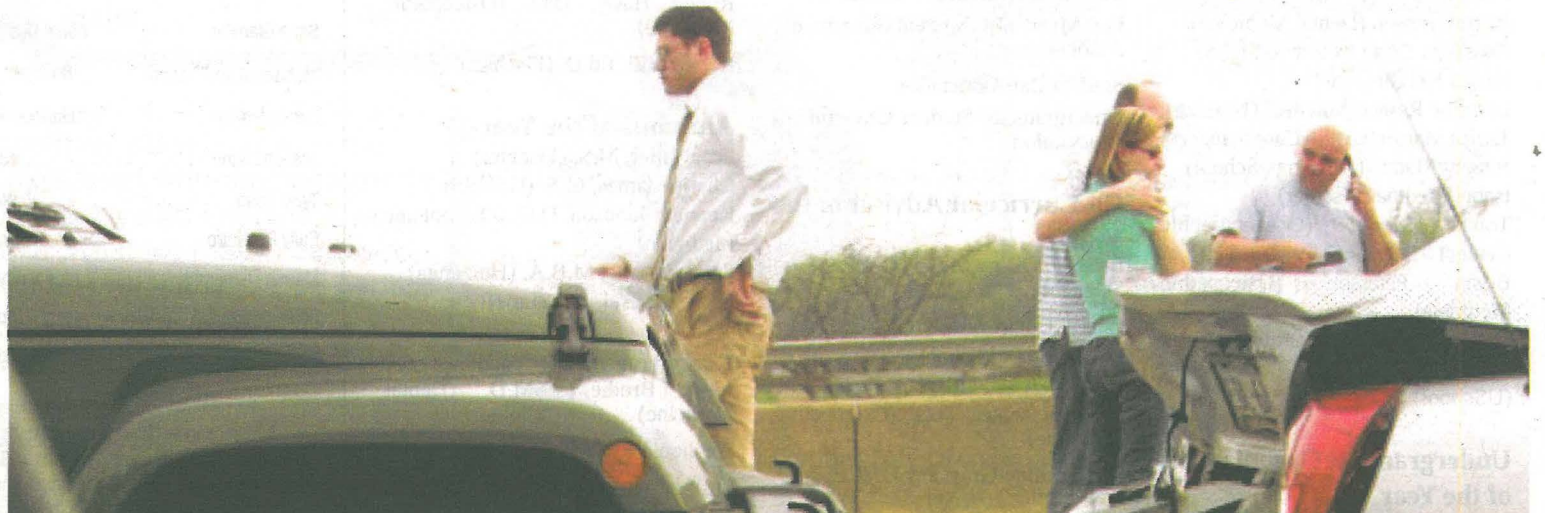
By: **Dean Gabriel Williams**
News Editor

In the last hour of the 2012 Florida legislative session in Tallahassee on March 9, the Senate enacted its version of motor vehicle personal injury protection insurance reform (HB119). These regulations mean a reduction of car insurance rates over time.

Governor Rick Scott's signature on the bill could mean the first significant change to the no-fault personal injury protection system, which has been in place since the early 1970s.

These changes to Personal Injury Protection (PIP) came after calls from Scott to the state legislature to enact regulations that eliminate fraud, limit attorney's fees, and narrow providers who can participate in the insurance reimbursement program.

Scott is likely to sign HB 119, which would ensure that judges could



Lower car insurance rates could be on the horizon for Florida drivers with the proposal of a new bill, HB119.

not increase attorney's fees in PIP lawsuits. HB 119 would additionally reduce the maximum allowable limit on non-emergency services from \$10,000 to \$2,500 and would exclude death benefits from the \$10,000 cap and cap it separately at \$5,000.

Albert Williams, chair of

finance and economics, and professor at the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, said while caps on attorney's fees are a major portion of regulation, the state legislature also needs to consider how transparency factors into any auto insurance policy.

"If there is a clear path that demonstrates where funding comes from, and where funding is going, it then becomes easier to determine where, when, why and how fraud is occurring. If there is transparency throughout all aspects of the auto insurance industry, it becomes easier

to pinpoint where the issues are, which, in turn, will make it easier for the state legislature to regulate the industry," said Williams.

The House version of the bill, which was not passed, would have allowed insurance companies to use

SEE INSURANCE BILL 2

KONY from 1

has been excessive use of funds by the organization's founders for personal use, and for marketing and advertising.

The organization has also come under scrutiny by the public for drawing awareness to Kony despite the fact that there is no evidence to prove he is still in Uganda.

Additionally, on March 12,

Jason Russell, founder of Invisible Children, Inc., was detained by the San Diego Police Department for public intoxication, vandalism, and lewd and lascivious behavior.

Jonathan Trabitiz, second-year law student, doesn't think Cover the Night will be a successful event.

"I think if you're going to bring all this press to Kony and not do

anything about it, it's pointless," said Trabitiz. "They could put enough pressure on the American government to get involved, but that's not going to happen during election year."

However, Adames said that she supports the KONY 2012 movement because she believes in Invisible Children's message that "where you live shouldn't determine whether you

live," and hopes to do her part to raise awareness about the crimes Kony has committed against Ugandan children. "When people know who Joseph Kony is and what he has done, then justice will be demanded. Just because these children are suffering in Africa does not mean they have less of an importance compared to a child in America. We are all equal no

matter where we live," Adames said. To sign up for Cover the Night, students can contact Adames at la662@nova.edu, or on the Facebook event page at www.facebook.com/events/201905496577786/.

INSURANCE BILL from 1

examinations under oath to help reduce fraud. It also would have placed a statutory limit of seven days, after an accident, that a patient could seek care. Further, it would have placed a limit on a judge's capability to increase attorney's fees in PIP lawsuits and set a cap on the fees.

Rainier Regueiro, first-year law student, said he is in support of the House's version, but is at least content with the fact that the state legislature has taken some measures to curb fraud in the auto insurance industry.

"The House bill is closer to what we need with regard to regulation of attorney's fees. In the recent past, attorney referral services has saturated the insurance lawsuit industry, which has led to both overload in the court system and an increase in auto insurance fraud," said Regueiro.

The Senate version, in contrast, does not allow for examination submission to reduce fraud, places a statutory limit on claims of 14 days, and does not set a cap on attorney's fees.

Anthony Campenni, first-year law student, said he is in support of the Senate's version.

"Any article of legislation that will reduce insurance fraud will assist in tackling the issue of inflated insurance rates. While I understand the House's desire to place a statutory limit on the fees that attorneys can collect as a result of PIP lawsuits, any cap needs additional investigation beyond the terms of one legislative session before enactment," said Campenni.

Williams said the real issues are whether or not HB 119 provides for the right type of regulation and how HB 119 will be enforced.

"While the focus of HB 119 is to decrease the level of auto insurance fraud by regulation, there is also a free enterprise system that must be protected and preserved. What we've learned from the financial crisis of 2008 and the events that followed is that lack of enforcement of regulations often lead to inconsistencies in the system, one of which is fraud," said Williams.

Proponents of HB 119 argue that these regulations are necessary

because the system has been riddled with fraud for decades, as confirmed by the National Insurance Crime Bureau, which has labeled Florida the top state for staged automobile accidents.

While the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation is directed to evaluate the impact of the legislation within two months, early estimates indicate that in addition to savings on auto insurance policies, auto insurance claims will decrease by at least 10 percent.

Williams said that while the implementation of HB 119 might decrease the cost of auto insurance, there are other factors to consider that keep the cost of auto insurance high in the state.

Williams said, "While this HB 119 focuses on PIP, there are other areas of auto insurance policy that need reformation. For example, fraudulent destruction, which is prevalent in South Florida, increases insurance. HB 119 is a good start, but their needs to be more of the right regulation if the objective is to decrease significantly the cost of auto insurance."

STUEY award finalists

The 13th annual Student Life Achievement Awards will be held on April 17 at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center. The event is an annual celebration started by Brad Williams, vice president of Student Affairs, more than a decade ago to recognize NSU's community members who excel in scholarship, leadership, involvement, service, commitment, integrity and inclusion. Here are the finalists for the 2012 STUEYS:

Student of the Year

Stephanie Camejo (CPS)
Stephanie Frankel (Optometry)
Genevieve Hale (Pharmacy)
Katherine "Kate" Hixson (GSCIS)
Justin Johnson (Dental Medicine)
Consuelo Doria Kelley (GSHSS)
Hanna Knight (Law)
Lorraine Romeo Marshall (Nursing)
Tzafra Martin (Health Care Sciences)
Jeremy Mathis (Huizenga School)
Isabel Medina (Fischler)
Travis Moore (Oceanographic Center)
Bryan Peterson (Osteopathic Medicine)
Catalina Rodriguez (Farquhar)
Sydney Michelle Schneider (USchool)

Undergraduate Organization of the Year

Delta Phi Epsilon
Hillel
Kappa Sigma Fraternity
Locks for Cause
Student Nurses Association

Athletic Team of the Year

Baseball
Men's Swimming
Women's Rowing
Women's Volleyball
Women's Golf

Graduate Organization of the Year

Hispanic Law Student Association (Law Center)
Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. (Pharmacy)
Nova's Optometric Practice Management Association (Optometry)
Society of Human Resources Management (Huizenga School)
Teaching of Psychology Division of Graduate Students (CPS)

Student Government of the Year

College Osteopathic Medicine Student Government Association
Center for Psychological Studies Student Government Association
Fort Myers SEC Student Government Association
Student Bar Association
Undergraduate Student Government Association

Co-Curricular Adviser of the Year

Brenda Diaz, M.S. (Health Care Sciences)
Cheryl Duckworth, Ph.D. (GSHSS)
Eleanor Marschke, D.B.A. (Huizenga School)
Edward Packer, D.O. (Osteopathic Medicine)
Sarah Valley-Gray, Psy.D. (CPS)

SEC Student of the Year

Bertha Bea (Orlando)
Milton Cepeda (Jacksonville)
Rachel Eisenberg (Ft. Myers)
Jinal Patel (WPB)
Kristine Smith (Miami)

Staff Person of the Year

Tamea Graham (GSHSS)
Lynda Harris (Law)
Christine Nelson (Osteopathic Medicine)

Rosemarie Stewart (Dental Medicine)
Fariyah Syed (Fischler)

Administrator of the Year

Keith Kavanaugh (Fischler)
Jane Lazarus Ed.S. (CPS)
Judith McKay, J.D., Ph.D. (GSHSS)
Carmen Sosa (Farquhar)
Liza Sumulong, M.B.A. (Huizenga School)

Professor of the Year

Melanie Crandall, O.D., M.B.A., FAAO (Optometry)
Morton Diamond, M.D. (Health Care Sciences)
Ana Fins, Ph.D. (CPS)
Robert Hasty, D.O. (Osteopathic Medicine)
Robert Hill, Ed.D. (Fischler)

Alumnus of the Year


Dan Carter, M.S. (Fischler)
Cherise James, M.S. (GSHSS)
Kenneth Johnson, D.O. (Osteopathic Medicine)
Scott Roberts, M.B.A. (Huizenga)
Beverly Vesel, J.D. (Law)

Executive of the Year

Abby Brodie, D.M.D. (Dental Medicine)
Stephanie Brown, Ed.D. (ESS)
Leslie Cooney, J.D. (Law)
Joseph De Gaetano, D.O. (Osteopathic Medicine)
Stanley Wilson, Ed.D. (Health Care Sciences)

Corporate Partner of the Year

AutoNation
Baptist Health South Florida
Chartwells
Jackson Memorial
NSU Family Therapy and Stable Foundations



April

events by students, for students

Saturday, April 14

Benefit Concert » 6 p.m. - midnight, Flight Deck Patio

Sponsored by: Sigma Delta Tau
Sigma Delta Tau's will host its 5th annual benefit concert. All proceeds will benefit Prevent Child Abuse America. There will be free music and food all night, and silent auction and donations to raise money.
Contact: Stephanie Brunell, sb1369@nova.edu

Submit your student club or organization's events for the Onshore calendar by emailing: trail@nova.edu. Only events for students, by students accepted.

Correction

In the March 20th issue of *The Current* in the news brief "New lending library offers free access to exam prep materials," it was reported that unlimited use of the materials are allowed within the library. However, unlimited use of the materials are allowed within the Office of Academic Services, since there is no physical library. Additionally, materials can be checked out for use outside of the office for up to two weeks at a time.



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The Current serves Nova Southeastern University from its location in Room 105 of the Athletics and Student Activities (ASA) Building. The Current is NSU's established vehicle for student reporting, opinion and the arts. All community members are invited to contribute.

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Contributing writers must not be directly involved with their coverage. Coverage by contributing writers must be meaningful and of interest to the NSU community. The Current reserves the right to edit, publish or deny submitted works as it sees fit. The Current shall remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility or otherwise create a bias, real or perceived.

Help Wanted

All students should contact the Office of Student Employment, located on the first floor of the Horvitz building, to apply for these positions. For more information email: studentemployment@nova.edu or visit www.nova.edu/financialaid/employment



Job # 002

Senior Student Assistant

Provide telephone technical support to the NSU computing community. Collect and record specific information regarding user requests and problems. Dispatch problem reports to appropriate personnel.
20-25 hrs/wk; \$11/hr

Job #: 039

Desktop Computing Assistant

Assist full-time employees with the daily installation and maintenance and support of personal computer hardware and software.
20 hrs/wk; \$10/hr

Job #: 054

Lab Monitor

Assist students and faculty computer related problems in the microcomputer lab.
25 hrs/wk; \$8/hr

Job #: 086

Graduate Student Assistant

Assist coordinator with on-going projects within the department.
15-20 hrs/wk; \$11/hr

Job #: 165

Lifeguard

Prevent accidents through the enforcement of policies, rules, regulation, and the conduct of persons using the pool, saunas, and spa. Additional duties: scrub pool gutters, heavy vacuum and hosing deck. Available: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.; \$9/hr

Job #: 224

Intramural Sports Official

Officiate intramural sports based on rules and regulations as set forth by Campus Recreation. Ensure that teams/individuals follow rules and regulations. Provide all intramural participants with superior customer service. Remain visible and on post at all times.
Mon-Thurs, 5:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.; occasional weekends; \$8/hr

Job #: 307

Orientation Assistant

Plan, organize and implement orientation events for students, parents. Conduct group meetings with students and parents. Prepare orientation materials such as binders and flyers. Transport orientation materials to sites as needed. Work with Student Affairs to coordinate events and activities. Other duties as assigned.
15 hrs/wk; \$8.25/hr

Job #: 360

Office Assistant

Filing, phones, copying, errands and other duties as assigned.
20 hrs/wk; \$8.25/hr

Job #: 374

Field Operations Assistant

Assist the Operations Coordinator by ensuring fields and facilities are prepared for home games and events. Act as a troubleshooter at events by providing supervision.

Also assist with game management.
20 hrs/week; \$8hr/wk

Job#: 397

Student Ambassador

Conduct campus tours to prospective students and their families. Other duties include data entry. Answer incoming phone calls. Participate in special events and telecounseling.
20 hrs/wk; \$8.25/hr

Job #: 491

Senior Student Assistant (North Miami Beach Campus)

Staff the circulations desk, shelve materials, process materials, check out/in computer and A/V equipment after being trained to help set up computer software, prepare training areas, prepare first level preventative, maintain A/V equipment after being trained, assist patrons using computer.
20 hrs/wk; \$9/hr

Job #: 500

Phonathon Worker

Call alumni from all over the country to update their information. Let our alumni know about new developments at NSU and ask for support of NSU through our annual giving program.
10-15 hrs/wk; \$8.50/hr

Job #: 544

Student Assistant (East Campus)

Filing, alphabetizing payroll forms, keying time sheets, leave of absence reports. Putting reports in book binders, auditing payroll forms.
25 hrs/wk; \$10/hr

Job #: 568

Admin. Student Assistant (West Palm Beach)

Provide administrative support and services to the SEC recruiting staff, meeting enrollment goals and objectives. Assist in providing office coverage to front desk. Provide customer service to all callers and visitors in a professional manner.
20-25 hrs/wk; \$10/hr

Job #: 595

Technology Assistant

Editing web pages, data entry. Maintaining department web schedules. Other duties as assigned.
\$8/hr

Job # 629

Student Accounting Intern

Accounting intern needed to assist in working on spreadsheets (Excel), journal entries, support controller and manager of taxation, preparation of schedules, creation of flowcharts. Work closely with the controller.
20 hrs/wk; \$10/hr

Job #: 630

Student Assistant

Assist customers with card related issues such as but not limited to access to parking,

printing, copying, etc. Assist with event computer deployment and usage. Carry out assignments as necessary to meet service goals.
20 hrs/wk; \$8/hr

Job #: 679

Senior Student Assistant

Provide clerical support and administrative assistance to the various administrators.
20 hrs wk; \$9/hr

Job #: 695

Administrative Student Assistant

Assist with filing, data entry, reports and other office duties. Help with special events.
20 hrs wk; \$9/hr

Job #: 778

Student Assistant

Receive technical hardware and software. Process the items with a barcode scanner and computer. Deliver items to various departments on- and off-campus.
20 hrs/wk; \$9/hr

Job #: 779

Operations Assistant/Facilities

Answer telephones, manage the operation of the front service desk, answer questions, enforce facility and program policies, conduct face checks, and distribute information and directions. Maintain the cleanliness of the facility and the upkeep of the facility program space.
\$7.50/hr

Job #: 783

Personal Trainer

Provide members with a quality, safe, and effective workout. Maintain written documentation of each client.
20 hrs/wk; \$18/hr - starting and depending on experience.

Job #: 810

Graduate Student Assistant

Provide instructional and research assistance to children and young adult patrons within the computer lab of the library. Answer questions and introduce children/young adult patrons to, and assist them with the use of computers, age-appropriate library databases, and educational software in math, language arts, social studies, spelling, reading and other relevant disciplines. Must be able to work weekends.
20 hrs/wk; \$10.50/hr

Job #: 815

Senior Student Assistant

Provide administrative and clerical support to the office including but not restricted to word processing, filing, scanning, front desk coverage.
20 hrs/wk; \$8.50/hr

Job #: 910

Student Assistant, East Campus, Fort Lauderdale

Operate telephone switchboard to route, receive, and place calls to all campus locations. Disseminate information to callers on NSU

programs of study, events and special advertisements. Place and track long distance calls for internal NSU customers. Other duties as assigned. On occasional basis, attend divisional and NSU sponsored meetings and instructional workshops. Supervisor will provide more detailed job description.
20 hrs/wk; \$11/hr

Job #: 925

Administrative Student Assistant, Tampa

Provide administrative support and services to the recruiting staff in meeting enrollment goals and objectives. Assist by providing office coverage at front desk and customer service to all callers and visitors in a courteous manner. Event participation (i.e. open house and new student orientation).
20-25 hrs/wk; \$10/hr

Job #: 935

Graduate Student Assistant

Data entry of transcript requests, preparing for mailing of transcripts, research, and responding to emails.
20-25 hrs/wk; \$11/hr

Job #: 956

Building Manager

Promote programs and services and provide support for activities and events. Provide for the safety of the building, its users and staff by enforcing University Center (UC) and University policies. Monitor potential safety/liability problems and assisting guests to meet their needs while using facilities. Act as a liaison to the UC janitorial staff to ensure a clean environment for guests. Perform general maintenance and upkeep of the UC equipment (easels, rental machines, tables, chairs, A/V equipment, etc.) Maintain inventory of appropriate supplies and stored items. Post signs, daily schedules and ensure buildings are opened appropriately. Evening and weekend work involved.
20 hrs/wk; \$8.50/hr

Job #: 965

Computing Assistant - Dania Beach

Monitor computer functionality, including projectors, Powerpoint, and recordings. Assist students with PC hardware, and maintain office supplies. Record presentations as requested.
20-25 hrs/wk; \$9/hr

Job #: HPD 034

Contact Lens Assistant

Maintain diagnostic lens inventory and saleable products. Call patients as contact lens orders are received, sort lenses in appropriate storage trays. Log warranted credit using computer software after returning lenses to manufacturer; organize product and price books.
5 hrs/wk; \$8.50/hr

News Briefs

Job growth highest in Fort Lauderdale and Miami

Fort Lauderdale and Miami had the highest job growth earlier this year with job openings going up 10.2 percent. These regions are among 30 areas that saw an increase in job openings. Some other places for increased job growth include Orlando (6.5 percent), and Detroit (5.4 percent). The occupations that experienced this growth were: sales, agricultural jobs and financial services.

Boomers & Beyond 2012 Health & Wellness Expo

NSU's Health Professionals Division will host the 7th annual Boomers & Beyond 2012 Health and Wellness expo on April 1 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. in the Terry Administration Building. The free event will offer a wide selection of health screenings that include blood pressure, bone density, memory, and skin health. There will also be information desks, giveaways and prizes, and other opportunities to learn about how to prevent and manage health. For more information call 954-NSU-CARE.

UF and FSU tuition increase bill passes

The University of Florida and Florida State University could raise tuition above the 15 percent yearly cap if a bill passed by the legislature gets approved by the governor. The move is supported by higher educational leaders and the university presidents. FSU president Eric Barron said he wanted the hike in tuition to focus on student needs and area such as science, technology, engineering, and math. The bill still needs to be signed by Governor Rick Scott. Meanwhile, the Legislature is slashing state support to the state's 11 universities, for the fifth year in a row, by 20 percent. Cumulatively, state aid to public universities have been cut 25 percent since 2007.

NSU Undergraduate Admissions to host Accepted Student Day

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will host Accepted Student Day on March 30, at 8:30 a.m. in the Carl DeSantis Building. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m., and the program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Accepted Student Day will allow students and their parents to take part in panel sessions led by students, faculty, and administrators to gain a better insight about residential life, financial aid, orientation, and completing the admissions process. Academic advisors will also be available to help students chose their classes for the fall 2012 semester. For more information about the event and to register, please call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 954-262-8000.

Diary of... a student who attended MegaCon

By: **Tyler Conti**
Contributing Writer

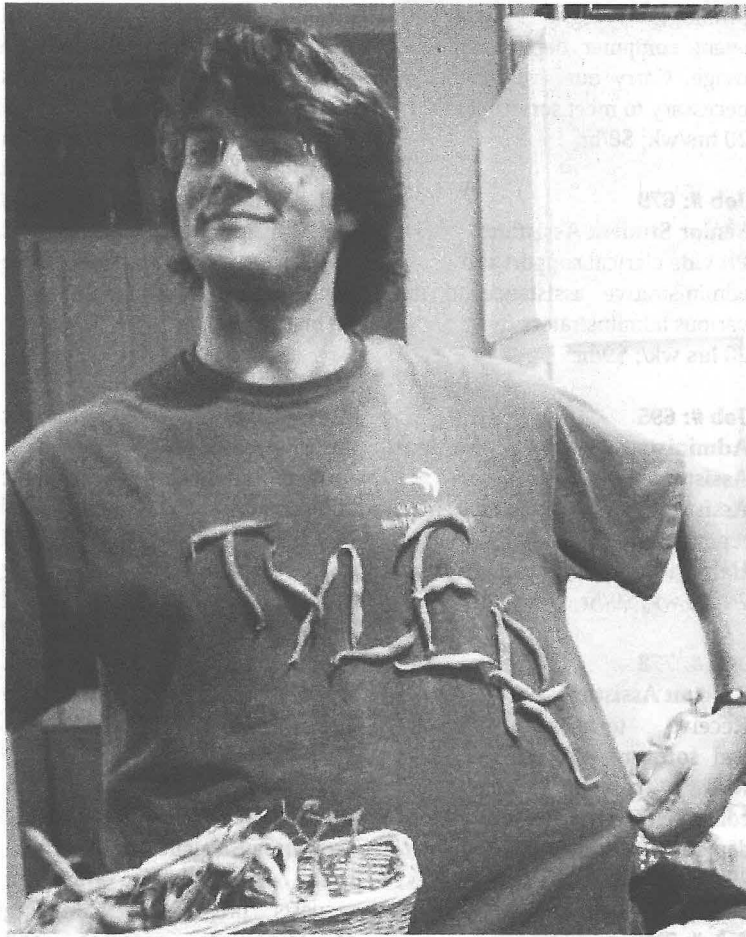
Tyler Conti is a sophomore English and history major. He likes to have fun, play water polo and enjoys video games. He dislikes cars.

I've never attended a major convention before, so when NSU's SAGE club, the Society for Anime, Games, and Entertainment, offered its members an opportunity to go to the MegaCon (a convention catering to the comic book, sci-fi, anime, gaming, and fantasy community), I signed up.

The days ticked away until it was finally Feb. 17. I arrived in Orlando at midnight and met up with several of the members who had already arrived. Not knowing what to expect from the convention, we went to bed just past midnight with our alarms set for 7 a.m.

The next morning was rather interesting. At 7 a.m. on the dot, six different alarms went off filling the room with noises from chiming bells to the introduction of the Lion King. Stubbornly, we all awoke and got ready for the day ahead. My friend and I were interested in taking part in a team game of "Magic: The Gathering," so we left early with a few other members. I got my ticket and, already, this section of the convention center was rapidly filling up with people dressed in casual clothes and people costume playing as characters from their favorite films, TV shows, and video games. Some costumes were very impressive, even though I knew nothing about who they were pretending to be.

After getting my ticket, my friend and I went to the "Magic: The Gathering" arena and signed up for the team tournament known as the



COURTESY OF T. CONTI
Tyler Conti, sophomore English and history major, attended MegaCon, a convention revolving around anime, comics and video games.

"double-headed giant". We were given eight packs of cards and 30 minutes to construct two decks of cards to use in the tournament. The cards we got were not the best, but we made the best decks we could. Once the time was up the teams were bracketed up and we were granted "the first bye", which meant that we did not have to play in the first round, so now we had 90 minutes to kill in the convention.

Once we exited the arena, we

found ourselves lost in a twisting line of people eager to grab a ticket to the convention floor. The entrance to the convention floor was roughly a football field away so we began to dodge in and out of the crowds towards it. Once we got to the entrance we found the opening exhibit -- a Volkswagen Beetle painted to look like Pikachu from Pokémon surrounded with all kinds of Pikachu paraphernalia. As we moved towards the door to the convention hall we held

our wrists high and walked through to a vast, almost empty, room. To the right was a the main convention area which seemed, even greater in size to the area we were already in, but I was still surprised to find this room so empty. The only thing in the room was an extremely long line and a closed off area, where one can pay an exorbitant amount of money to get Stan Lee's autograph.

My friend and I, then, glanced at all the booths. I saw everything from old toys I used to play with as a kid, that now sell for considerable amounts of money, to swords, T-shirts and candy. At one of the booths I found a Viking-style sword and I had to have it. The man who ran the booth told me \$50, but after pointing out that the sheath was damaged and that it was a show model, he knocked the price down to \$30 and I paid him.

We headed back to the Magic arena where we arrived just prior to the final game's conclusion. Shortly afterward we were placed against another team and were swiftly defeated. We laughed at our pathetic attempt and then waited around 30 minutes for the next match. The second was a close game but they drew the better cards and won just before we did. For our fourth match we received another bye and fourth place, something we gladly took. Our prize was a few packs of cards and a handshake.

We returned to the convention floor for a closer look at the abundance of items that were offered. We saw bootleg DVDs of no longer aired TV shows, movie posters signed by their actors, figurines of famous characters,

comics, T-shirts, costumes, almost everything imaginable. Unfortunately, most of the things were overpriced. Most figurines started at \$5 for the poorer quality ones and then skyrocketed into the hundreds for the ones of better quality. I picked up a HBO series "Game of Thrones" poster for \$8.

We moved on to a different part of the convention known as Artist Ally. Artist Ally was row upon row of artists with prints of their best work for sale to anyone willing to purchase. Some booths offered on-the-spot drawings, while others stocked pre-printed and pre-signed copies. I, personally, did not find anything that I absolutely needed to have, but most of the artwork was very good and I know several people who bought some very nice and creative pieces.

After strolling through Artist Ally my friend and I found ourselves spent. We had seen everything interesting to us so we decided to go play some games. My friend and I played two sessions of "Star Wars Dungeons and Dragons" before getting bored and returning to the hotel.

I enjoyed my trip to MegaCon. It was interesting to see the abundance of people in crazy costumes. It was fun to roam the convention area and look at all the cool things that were on sale. However, I found the prices too high on several items, but it's not to put me off from attending another convention. If given an opportunity to attend another one I would definitely do so. I recommend that anyone interested in comics, video games or anime attend at least one convention. They are interesting experiences that are worth the time and cost of attendance.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MARY BARTUCCIO

By: **Alyssa Sterkel**
Features Editor

If it would seem a little strange to you to one day work alongside your professors and call them by their first name, it's OK. It felt a little strange to Mary Bartuccio, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD, assistant professor in the College of Optometry, as well.

Bartuccio graduated from NSU in 1997 after receiving her Doctor of Optometry degree. She then completed her residency in Pennsylvania and joined a private practice in Florida for five years, before returning as faculty to NSU in 2003.

Bartuccio said, "I always wanted to teach and when the opportunity became available to work at NSU, it was perfect timing."

The most interesting part about returning to NSU for Bartuccio is that every day is an adventure since her responsibilities include teaching the optometry students and taking care of patients in the clinic.

Her favorite part about being a professor is when she sees that "a-

ha" moment happen for her students. She tries to help students put together thoughts and concepts taught in other classes, so they can see the big picture. Bartuccio does this through visual aids including videos. She realizes that you have to make the experience in the classroom fun.

She said, "The classroom can't be a threatening environment. It needs to be nurturing—a place where people can have fun and absorb information. It's two-fold."

One of the reasons why Bartuccio took the job at NSU was because she loves to teach, and at the same time, she loves to continue being a clinical optometrist. She said ever since she was a child she always wanted to take care of kids, which is why her specialty is pediatrics.

"I am thrilled when small children, or adults, come in with undetected visual problems and through glasses and vision therapy, these patients undergo many positive changes that they take with them forever. It makes me feel fulfilled because I know I took care of them," she said.

But at the same time, Bartuccio said, it's a struggle to make patients realize some visual problems require more than a pair of glasses.

"They need to realize they need to work at it and yet some still want the 'magic glasses'," she said.

It is common for patients to have undetected visual problems, and even more so for patients with special needs. It surprises Bartuccio that these patients do not get the care they deserve because there are so few professionals who can manage these patients' cases.

She hopes to help change this with her new book, "Visual Diagnosis and the Care of the Patient with Special Needs." She, along with Marc B. Taub, O.D., M.S., FAAO, FCOVD, and Dominick M. Maino, OD, MED, FAAO, FCOVD-A, co-edited the book in a process that started many years ago. She said the book is geared towards optometrists, but also other professionals, including occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech and language therapy, as well as psychiatry, social work, pediatric

medicine, and special education, can find this book an excellent resource. Many experts who work with patients who have Autism, Down syndrome, brain injury, etc. contributed to the book.

Bartuccio hopes people who read the book will be able to better take care of patients with special needs, by learning new techniques and the latest research and treatments available.

"It's a well-rounded textbook which emphasizes the role of optometry in the care of patients with special needs, but the book is also geared towards other professionals in many fields. It talks about conditions that are becoming more common and how professionals need to work as a team to help these patients get the care they deserve," she said.

Writing the book also changed the way she looks at students' papers due to the editing process.

"We edited the chapters many times and I'll never look at another paper the same. Grammar counts and it needs to make sense. Expressing yourself on paper is an art," she said.



COURTESY OF M. BARTUCCIO
Mary Bartuccio, assistant professor in the College of Optometry.

Though Bartuccio has done a lot for the community, she still has one more goal: to better educate the public about the importance of comprehensive eye exams to help patients get treatment for their visual problems. She believes that patients with special needs require this even more and regular visits to their optometrist should be people's number one priority to detect visual problems early.

"You only have one pair of eyes. There are no transplant procedures to replace eyeballs. I want to help the public realize it's not just how well you see, but how well you interpret the world by what you see," she said.

Making fall registration hassle-free

By: **Alyssa Sterkel**
Features Editor

It's almost time to register for the fall 2012 semester. Registration begins April 2 and it's time to start figuring out your schedule. I know this process pretty well since this will be my last time registering (insert happy dance) and I want to help anyone who needs it.

Your first step in registering for the fall semester is to get a Curriculum Advising and Program Planning report. Log on to your WebSTAR account, click on Student, click on Student Records and then choose CAPP degree evaluation. This report enables you to see everything about your academic career from your GPA, to the classes you've taken, to your completed general education classes. When you compare your CAPP report with the classes you need to graduate, you can see which classes you should register for.

After you've reviewed your CAPP report, look at the classes offered in the fall. Log on to WebSTAR, click on Student, Student Registration, and then Look Up Classes to Add. Pick your major and/or minor to see what classes you can take. All the classes you need may not be offered next semester so this is the time to look at electives, too.

You don't just have to pick electives that will complement your major. Think outside of the box. Look at classes in the Arts,

Theatre, Philosophy, Music, and other majors. You can take an elective like Digital Photography (I highly recommend this class if you have a DSLR camera), Comedy and Improv, Moral Issues or Piano I.

Remember, registration begins next week. Don't wait until Friday to log on to WebSTAR and pick your classes. The ones you want may not be available and you'll be stuck with classes at odd times during the week. This is not ideal if you work and need a specific schedule. If you already have a list of the classes you want to take, the process should go smoothly.

Finally, make an appointment with your advisor or shoot them an email to ensure you're on the right track. It's always good to check back with them so they can give you the thumbs up. The last thing you want is to be here an extra semester because you picked the wrong classes.

The thought of your fall classes may send you into frenzy since you're still worrying about this semester, but it's much easier than studying for finals. Just remember to register for classes early and know which ones you need to sign up for in order to complete your degree program.

What you should know about gluten

By: **Alyssa Sterkel**
Features Editor

Fad diets come and go (think The 12-Day Grapefruit Juice Diet), but one that has celebrities buzzing is the gluten free diet. But, just because celebrities are doing it doesn't mean you should. Here's the lowdown about gluten and why you should (or shouldn't) follow this diet.

What is gluten?

Marilyn Gordon, Ed.D., NSU's registered dietitian, said gluten is one of the protein fractions in wheat, barley and rye.

"Gluten is used in a lot of foods and it can be very hidden," she said. "The food industry uses components of wheat, barley and rye so you have to be careful and read the label."

Who is allergic to gluten?

Gordon said an individual who is allergic to gluten has Celiac disease, or is gluten intolerant, which means they are genetically predisposed to be intolerant to gluten. When they ingest gluten, it causes havoc in their intestinal tract.

"It leads to malnutrition in the short term and small bowel cancers in the long term. It's a very serious condition," she said.

Gordon has practiced dietetics for 25 years and for the first 20 she had about five patients diagnosed with Celiac disease. She said in the last few years this diagnosis has been on the rise, and fortunately, it's become much easier to manage.

In previous years, food substitutes weren't available, so people just avoided eating bread, pasta, crackers, cereal, etc. Gordon said now there are more options available. Bread can be made out of acceptable grains like millet, corn and quinoa, and pasta can be made from amaranth.

Symptoms of Celiac disease?

Not everyone has symptoms if they're allergic to gluten. Gordon said a person needs to examine their family history to see if anyone is gluten intolerant.

"Usually, you see symptoms in childhood. A child might develop

diagnosis you with anemia, but you could really be allergic to gluten and not absorbing any nutrition.

"It is easy to type in your symptoms and say 'I've got that,'" Gordon said. "It's not the best way. You need a health professional to perform lab tests to get a strong diagnosis so you can move forward in a safe way."

What if you just want to try the diet?

Don't. Gordon said a gluten-free diet is just another fad celebrities have made popular.

"[On a gluten-free diet], there's a whole host of nutrients that are eliminated from your diet. How will you get those nutrients? We eat a lot of different things every single day to reap all the benefits that come from food. When someone decides they're not going to eat a major food group, they need to identify what nutrients they won't get," she said.

Also, gluten-free foods are not well fortified. There is no vitamin, folic acid, riboflavin, or iron in them. Gordon said they have added ingredients to make them more palatable, which drives the calories up.

For those who are gluten intolerant, they really need this diet. Gordon said it's the only remedy and its forever.

"It's a medical treatment. For those who need it, it's a Godsend. For those who don't need it, I don't understand the motivation. Why would you want to avoid those foods?" she said.



The label "gluten-free" is featured on many packaged foods. However, if you're not allergic to gluten think twice before buying them.

diarrhea, have an upset stomach and not gain weight appropriately," she said.

If someone has this disease and they're eating wheat, it disrupts the small intestine and that's where we absorb most of our nutrition Gordon said. Once your small intestine is upset, you don't absorb vitamins and minerals.

"Over time, it leads to anemia and not growing properly. In adults, the symptoms may be bloating, upset stomach and not feeling well," she said.

Gordon also recommends going to a gastroenterologist. A doctor may

Tips for surviving an online class

By: **Alyssa Sterkel**
Features Editor

Every time I register for classes I tell myself "don't pick an online class again," yet every time a new semester starts I'm registered for an online class. And, it's no different this time

From my many years of "online class-time," I've picked up a few tricks of the trade and I want to share them with you. From one online student to another, this is how you survive an online class.

Read carefully

I don't mean read your textbook (though I do recommend that as well), I mean read your syllabus, all messages your professor sends and any new announcements. If you don't fully read your syllabus from the beginning of the class, you're up a creek without a paddle. With

an online class, you don't get that first day of class "syllabus review speech" or hearing your professor make the same announcement three times for the students who text too much and don't listen. You need to know when assignments are due, how many times you have to post in the discussion board and when tests are open—and if any of these change. Don't ignore announcements or messages. They're imperative to your success in the class—or your failure.

Keep a planner

My planner saves my life. If I don't write something down, I don't remember it and I have a feeling I'm not the only planner junkie at NSU. In addition to reading your syllabus, you should take note of when assignments, essays and discussion posts are due. You don't want to be

scrambling at the last minute in an online class—that's just laziness. Also, you can even schedule in when to work on assignments so you have time for work and play—yes I'm that girl. But, in my defense, it keeps me sane.

Log on frequently

Some students love online classes because they don't have to leave their bedroom to go to class. However, this lack of showing up sometimes translates to signing onto Blackboard once a week. This is not a smart choice if you actually want to pass the class. Your Blackboard is the only way your professor can communicate with you and if you rarely log on, you will rarely see new announcements or messages. You don't want to miss the open hours of a test because you were too busy logging on to Facebook instead.

Use the Discussion Board

Because a professor doesn't take roll like in a traditional class, the discussion board is how they keep track of who "shows up." This is how you participate in the class. This is also a component of your final grade in every online class. If you understand that you need to post early in the week, more than once and longer than one sentence, you're good to go for all future online classes. The more you post, both in frequency and length, the more likely your teacher will give you a good grade. And if you want to know a secret, it's one of the easiest ways to ensure a good grade in an online class.

Email your professor

I have only met one of the professors I had online, and that's because I had her the next semester

in a different class, but even though I didn't see them I knew they were there to help. Make sure you know that when your "face-less" professor puts on their syllabus their email, office hours and location of their office; they want you to contact them. They're still teaching you and willing to help if you're struggling.

Online classes offer some great benefits for students, like the ability to do school work in your PJs with your hair a mess while eating cereal. However, just look lazy. Don't become lazy in your actual school work. Even though you may never see what your professor looks like, they're still giving you a grade.

And don't forget to program 954-262-HELP into your phone. It's NSU's help line and you may need these computer experts when you're in the middle of a test and it just stops working (I say that from experience).

5 v 5 youth soccer tournament takes place this weekend

By: **Kevin Preciado**
Sports Editor

The eighth annual 5 v 5 Youth Soccer Tournament will be hosted by the NSU Men's Soccer Alumni Association March 31-April 1 at NSU. Local soccer players, ages 7 to 17, will participate in the event.

This will be the third year the NSU Men's Soccer Alumni Association has hosted the event, and they have been planning it since January.

Assistant men's soccer coach, Matthew Parry, a member of the association, said the main purpose of the tournament is for the alumni to stay involved.

"From this tournament we kind of built the Men's Soccer Alumni Association. Because of this 5 v 5 soccer festival we're able to get more alumni back on campus. They come and help out the weekend of the event. We try and do one or two events a year for the alumni, just so they can get back involved with the university," he said.

The secondary purpose, Parry said, is to expose NSU to the community.

"The second priority is to get the local community on campus, so we can showcase our facility, showcase our soccer programs, and hopefully



One of the 217 teams that participated in last year's 5 v 5 tournament at NSU.

find some Sharks of tomorrow and the future," he said.

On Mar. 31, the boys will be competing in the tournament, while the girls compete on April 1. Although it's a soccer tournament, Parry described the event as more of a festival. There will be music, food, a bounce house and renowned artist, Guy Harvey, will sell shirts. Parry said the event is a great experience for the participants.

"The biggest benefit is it's an opportunity for the kids to play. They get to play on a nice facility, on a college facility, which they normally don't get the opportunity to do. It's just a great occasion," said Parry.

The tournament had nearly 2,000 participants last year and Parry expects it to be near that number this year. Members of the NSU community are encouraged to watch and support the participants.

ON THE BENCH

Commentary by:
Kevin Preciado



NSU baseball: A team to follow

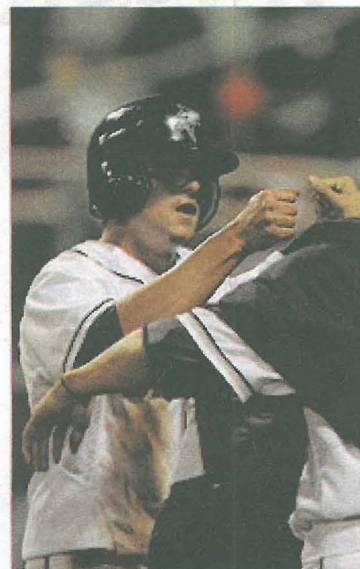
Who doesn't love a successful team one can follow, identify with, and support? Members of the NSU community, I'm about to tell you why our baseball team is that team.

When I think of this year's baseball team I automatically think of an explosive offense, and for good reason. As of March 19, the team leads the conference in batting average, on base percentage, slugging percentage, home runs, and walks. This lineup has been demolishing opponents and even put up 20 runs in a victory.

Although the entire team is strong, I'm going to highlight a few players to keep an eye on. Senior outfielder, A.J. Regoli, has been hitting the ball with authority as he leads the conference in home runs and slugging percentage. Who needs electricity when this guy is supplying the power?

Next up is sophomore second baseman, Carlos Asuaje, who leads the conference in on base percentage and has the second highest batting average. He practically lives on the base paths.

Did you know that head coach, Greg Brown, was a scout for the Houston Astros prior to coming here? If someone has the ability to recognize talent and skill, it's this guy. I believe his experience as a big



COURTESY OF NSUSHARKS.COM
Senior outfielder, A.J. Regoli, leads the conference with seven home runs.

league scout will and has helped him when it comes to recruiting. If I'm being recruited by a former MLB scout, I'm going to feel pretty good about myself because he knows what it takes to succeed at the highest level.

By supporting the baseball team, you might just have the opportunity to see some potential MLB prospects. It's possible some of these guys might be the next J.D. Martinez or Mike Fiers. It would be pretty awesome to say, "I saw him play when he was at NSU." Just something to think about.

Intramural soccer winners

By: **Kevin Preciado**
Sports Editor

After a fun and competitive season of intramural soccer, these are the four teams that walked away victorious.



FOOTBALLITUS
CO-REC RECREATIONAL CHAMPION

FOOTBALLITUS
MEN'S RECREATIONAL CHAMPION

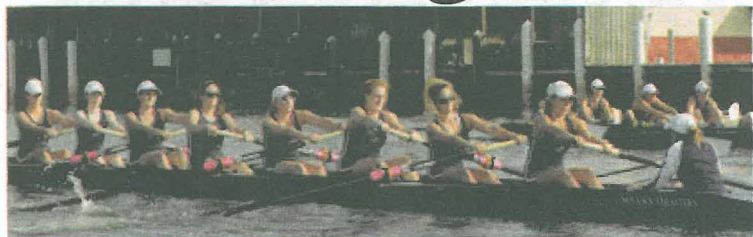


TWO LEFT FEET
CO-REC COMPETITIVE CHAMPION



FUSION
MEN'S COMPETITIVE CHAMPION

Rowing focused on growing stronger



The Varsity 8 was named SSC Boat of the Week for the week of March 19. COURTESY OF NSUSHARKS.COM

By: **Kevin Preciado**
Sports Editor

Rowing has competed in two events so far, and will be back in action on March 31 at the Barry Dual. The team is defending their title as conference champion and has won the conference four of the last five years.

Head coach, Mary Lenington, acknowledged that winning another conference championship would be an excellent accomplishment. However, she wants the team to just focus on improving every day.

"[The most important goal] is being strong as a team. Depth is an important goal. Having everybody accountable and focused every day, that was a goal the team set, which was to be better every single day," said Lenington.

Senior rower, Emma Jordan, has won conference twice since she's been on the team. She said the team has performed well and has shown a great deal of potential.

"I felt like this year has been the year where everyone's shown the most heart. I feel the most like a team

this year," said Jordan.

With this being her first year in charge of the program, Lenington said the team has embraced her coaching style.

She said there have been many changes and the team has handled those changes well. Lenington said she's looking forward to seeing each player grow stronger physically and mentally.

"We're looking forward to building a strong team," said Lenington. "What we're really looking forward to in the season is being as deep as we can, and race as many races as we can to get us further along the path."

Besides attending the races, Lenington said the best way for the NSU community to show their support for the team is by talking to the rowers about the sport.

She said, "I think that one of the best ways people can show support for rowing, other than attending races, is just being interested and engaging with a rower, not being too intimidated to ask a question about a sport that they don't know."

S P O R T S SHORTS

WRITTEN BY
KEVIN PRECIADO

BASEBALL



Led by a two home run performance by senior outfielder, A.J. Regoli, the team defeated Palm Beach Atlantic, 16-7, on March 21, and improved their record to 15-4.

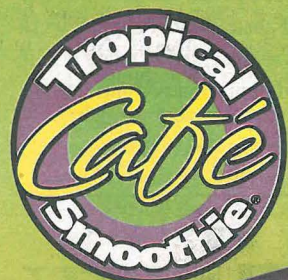
MEN'S GOLF



The number one team in the nation came away with a second place finish at the Bobcat Invitational on March 20.

TENNIS

The team fell to Towson in a close match, 4-5, on March 19 and their record dropped to 6-8.



eat better.  feel better.™

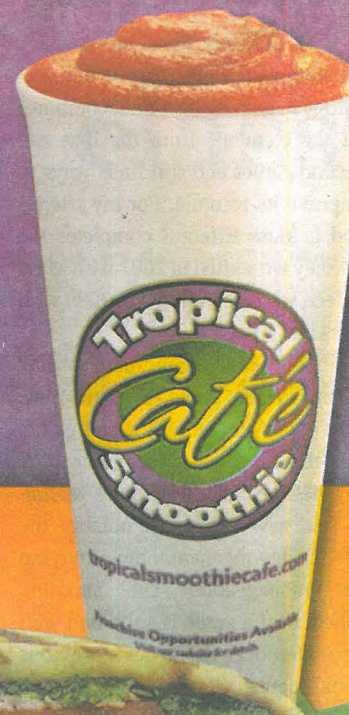
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History of campus art revealed

By: **Joseph Cirino**
Contributing Writer

There are various art exhibits and pieces that adorn NSU's campus. While most of these may be well known, such as the shark statue in front of the Don Taft University Center or the shark fin floating in Gold Circle Lake, their histories and how they came to be may be a mystery to some. To shed light on both the origins and history of the various installations of art around campus, *The Current* will explore the readily noticeable pieces in this issue and the more mysterious pieces found around the campus in a later issue.

The Shark Statue

Rising majestically before the doors of the Don Taft University Center, the shark statue was crafted by famed international wildlife sculptor Kent Ullberg and commissioned by NSU's Pan-Student Government Association. The Mako shark is sculpted from bronze and bears a mouth filled with 76, individually sculpted, stainless steel teeth. The entire statue weighs 3,000 pounds and is 17 feet high. The statue was unveiled during NSU's 2009 Homecoming ceremonies on Feb. 11, an evening that also saw the formal naming of the University Center in honor of philanthropist and businessman, Don Taft.

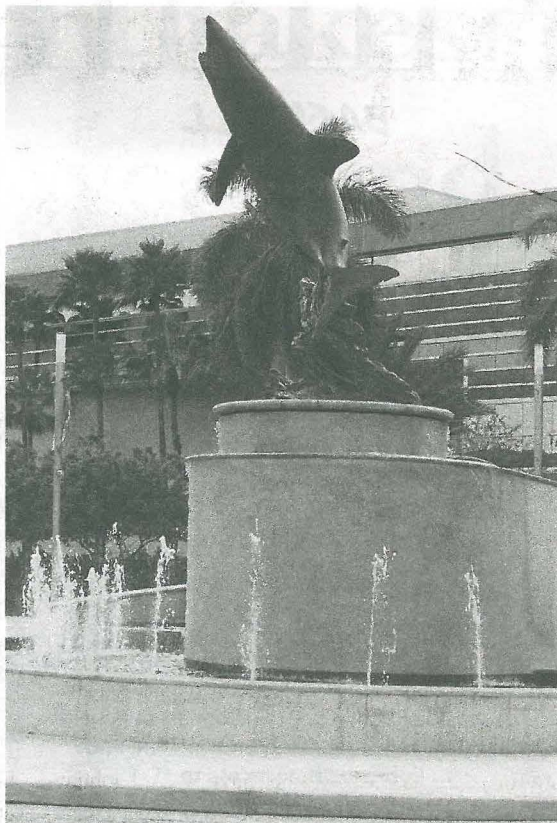


PHOTO BY V. RAJKUMAR

The Chihuly Exhibit

The NSU Glass Garden in the Alvin Sherman Library's mezzanine, at the summit of the grand staircase, was originally commissioned in 2007 by the Circle of Friends for the Library. The Glass Garden was created by world renowned glass-blower Dale Chihuly and was funded as a permanent installation by private donations. The exhibit was originally designed to resemble botanical forms, and meant to be placed within public gardens. The garden may not look natural, but they definitely are based upon the natural world. More information and examples of Chihuly's work can be found at his website www.chihuly.com.

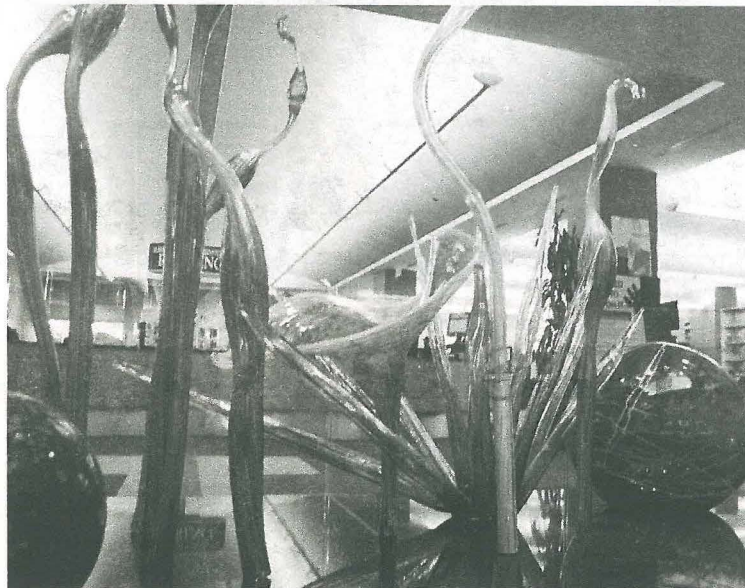


PHOTO BY J. CIRINO



PHOTO BY J. CIRINO

Withstanding Presence

Standing proudly in the center of the Alvin Sherman Library atrium, the spire of stone that bewilders freshmen and seniors alike was donated in part by the Circle of Friends for the Alvin Sherman Library in 2000. A permanent installation on the atrium floor, the Withstanding Presence is crafted from 160 million year old Chauvigny Stone (French Limestone) and stands 12 feet high. The monument was realized by world-renowned sculptor Beverly Pepper as an interpretive work with a heavy air of abstraction. Pepper's work has graced many locations worldwide, and she is represented in many public and corporate collections. For more information about Pepper and her art, visit her website at www.beverlypepper.org.

Mass Effect 3: The long awaited trilogy

By: **Tyler Conti**
Contributing Writer

Mass Effect 3 concludes what's possibly the best science-fiction trilogy in gaming history. It combines all the elements from the first and second games and still finds ways to improve its formula. For my friends and I, Mass Effect 3 completes the journey we started in 2007 with Mass Effect, which continued in 2009 with the Mass Effect 2.

The most important aspect of any video game is game play. Bad game play equals a bad game. For the most part, the game play of Mass Effect 3 is quite stellar. A few new additions, notably the new dodge mechanic, are annoying but manageable. The shooting aspect of the game is solid and well improved over the series's previous installments. The new weapon improvement system makes all weapons equally viable from the first mission to the last mission.

Combat, now with the new ability to stab enemies in the face with an "Omni Blade," is quite enjoyable for those used to shooter games and manageable for those who want something more strategic in their approach to problem



Mass Effect 3 takes shooter games to the next level.

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situations.

Another vital aspect to the game play of the Mass Effect series is the conversation system, a major feature from the first game that boasts fully voiced conversations that allows the player to craft their character's personality. Mass Effect 3 improves the conversation system by removing the stale, three-option approach used in the previous two games. There are no longer three options where the first means good, the second, neutral, and the third,

evil. Now there are two options where the outcomes are not quite well known and they may go either way along the player's morality chart.

Game play aside, the main reason people play the Mass Effect series is the story. This game's story ranks comparable to the first game up until the final ten minutes or so. Mass Effect continues and concludes the trilogy of the series that sees the player leading Commander Sheppard in a space opera-like

adventure across the galaxy in effort to destroy an invading army of sentient machines known as Reapers who are beset upon harvesting all life in the galaxy.

Mass Effect 3 sees the final confrontation with the reapers over the almost conquered battlefield of planet Earth. Following the invasion, players are tasked with assembling an army of all galactic species to lead a massive armada against the Reapers and fulfill the slogan of this game "take the Earth

back." Without spoiling anything, most of those who've played the game since its first installment will find the last ten minutes or so disappointing and inconclusive, but the game is still quite interesting and exciting for the majority of the time spent playing.

I recommend this game based on its story alone, but I also recommend to play the first game in the series. I guarantee you won't regret it.

Score some comedy on “21 Jump Street”

By: **Victoria Rajkumar**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

There is no fathomable reason for you to miss this movie. “21 Jump Street” stars Jonah Hill as Morton Schmidt and Channing Tatum as Greg Jenko. Together, this unlikely duo take on the biggest challenge of their lives for a second time. High school. Warning: Inappropriate hilarity ensues.

These former high school enemies join the police academy in hopes of becoming hot-shot superstars in the law enforcement field. Jenko was the typical dumb jock with an overabundance of popularity (Tatum plays his role well, for once), while Schmidt was the stubby, Eminem-wannabe who could barely turn heads—unless it was to watch him stumble over his own shoelaces. It turns out that Schmidt and Jenko need each other to survive police academy, and over the course of training, they become best friends. From the get-go, you will laugh yourself to tears

watching these guys attempt to act like legitimate defenders of the law. Jonah Hill never fails to crack me up, and I still love him even though he dropped the weight.

Despite having a bromance that Matt Damon and Ben Affleck would envy, Schmidt and Jenko are both such crappy officers, they get sent to a Korean church on 21 Jump Street, which houses an undercover police division led by none other than rapper Ice Cube, who plays the short-fused Captain Dickson. If you haven’t heard about “Korean Jesus,” you better ask somebody!

Captain Dickson sends the duo straight back to high school to pose as students to try and bust a drug ring before it spreads to other local high schools. The two find out that Eric Molson, played by the drop-dead-gorgeous Dave Franco (younger brother of James Franco from “127 Hours” and “Pineapple Express”), is the supplier for the “goods.” Naturally, these guys end up tripping on the very drug they



Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum made high school prom unforgettable in the movie “21 Jump Street.”

are there to confiscate and have the most epic tweak-out seen since “Project X” (2012).

High school has never been crazier. Schmidt and Jenko fall back into the swing of adolescence in the midst of drug busting, undercover aliases, and homework.

Johnny Depp makes a spectacular cameo appearance towards the end of the movie. It turns out, Depp was in the original “21 Jump Street” TV show back in 1987.

I’ve got some excellent news, a part two is definitely in the works and, hopefully, in the near future we

can see Schmidt and Jenko return to take on the next major obstacle of their careers...college.

Catch “21 Jump Street” in theaters now. This movie is rated R for a hilarious good time, drug use, language and some below-the-belt action.

Watch out for a second winter when “Game of Thrones” returns in April

By: **Kevin Preciado**
Sports Editor

“When you play The Game of Thrones you win or you die. There is no middle ground.” These were the words of the manipulative and evil Cersei Lannister, the queen dowager of the Seven Kingdoms; how true her words turned out to be.

“Game of Thrones” is truly the most brilliant show on television. After an exhilarating first season, the second season will make its debut April 1 at 8 p.m. on HBO. I hope you brought your jackets because “Winter is Coming.”

Last time we saw “Game of Thrones,” Joffrey Baratheon self-proclaimed himself as king, and it all went to hell from there. He foolishly had Ned Stark executed, and now Robb Stark is accompanied by 18,000 men to avenge his father and claim the throne for himself. Meanwhile, Daenerys Targaryen has three dragons with her, and she is also looking to claim the throne. If you haven’t had the privilege of watching this amazing show, all you need to know is just about everyone wants to rule the realm and they’re willing to do anything to secure that power.

Season two looks like it’s going to be action-packed. The Starks are at war with the Lannisters, so expect to see some serious bloodshed. Who knows what will happen once Daenerys and her dragons enter the picture? We saw Cersei’s statement come to fruition when two of the main characters were murdered towards the end of season one. You know there’s a good show on your



Robb Stark heads towards King’s Landing to avenge his father in the HBO series “Game of Thrones.”

hands when the two biggest stars were killed off, and you’re still left wanting more.

Another element season two should provide is insight as to who or what the White Walkers are, and why they’ve returned thousands of years later destroying villages. Jon Snow and The Night’s Watch are heading north beyond the wall to fight these mysterious White Walkers. Yeah. There’s quite a bit of fighting going on, and that’s one of the many reasons why this show is more addictive than nicotine.

“Game of Thrones” has the perfect blend of deception, action, romance, comedy, and fantasy. If you’re a fan of historical fiction and awesome British actors, then this show is right up your alley. There are characters we have come to love and characters we despise. Season two is certainly shaping up to be an epic one. All I can say is sit back on your throne and enjoy the show.

offshore March 28 - April 3

Wednesday 3.28

Gondwana w. Bachaco, Mixed Culture Revolution Live, Ft. Lauderdale, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY 3.29

GREEN ROOM: Jazz Sessions performing Miles Davis, Revolution Live, Ft. Lauderdale, 7 p.m.

Cirque Dreams Presents Pop Goes The Rock, Hard Rock Live, Hollywood, 7:30 p.m.

Disney On Ice: Toy Story 3 Bank Atlantic Center, Sunrise, 6:00 p.m.

Friday 3. 30

Ace Hood: Biggest Spring Break Bash Ever!! Revolution Live, Ft. Lauderdale, 7 p.m.

Joey Coco Diaz Miami Improv, Coconut Grove, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 3.31

WWE HALL OF FAME 2012 American Airlines Arena, Miami, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 3.15

WWE WRESTLEMANIA American Airlines Arena Miami, 7p.m.

Monday 4.2

Red Hot Chili Peppers Bank Atlantic Center, Sunrise, 8:00 p.m.

WWE Raw Supershow American Airlines Arena Miami, 8:15p.m.

Tuesday 4.3

Panthers vs. Winnipeg Jets Bank Atlantic Center, Sunrise, 7:30 p.m.

Van Halen Bank Atlantic Center, Sunrise, 6:30 p.m.

Comedy Jam Miami Improv, Coconut Grove, 10:00 p.m.

*Listen to Radio X – WNSU 88.5 for a chance to win tickets to these events. Call (954) 262 – 8460 between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m.

Why you should be skeptical about Kony 2012

By: **Davis Yahn**
Opinions Editor

Having an email account today can be an open door to all sorts of solicitation, good and bad. So how do you know which ones to trust? "You can't" is the short answer. No one on the Internet is as trustworthy as you think they are, even if they are trying to save a country.

Millions are jumping on board the anti-Joseph Kony campaign and it is easy to see why. Take a half-hour of your time to watch the viral video made by the Invisible Children, Inc. and you will instantly want to become a humanitarian. The words professed by Jason Russell, Invisible Children, Inc., and the narrator of the video, made an impact on many people. The video evoked an almost instant hatred for Kony that has many devotees of the video clearing their schedule for the night of April 20 — the night scheduled to raise awareness about Kony all over the world.

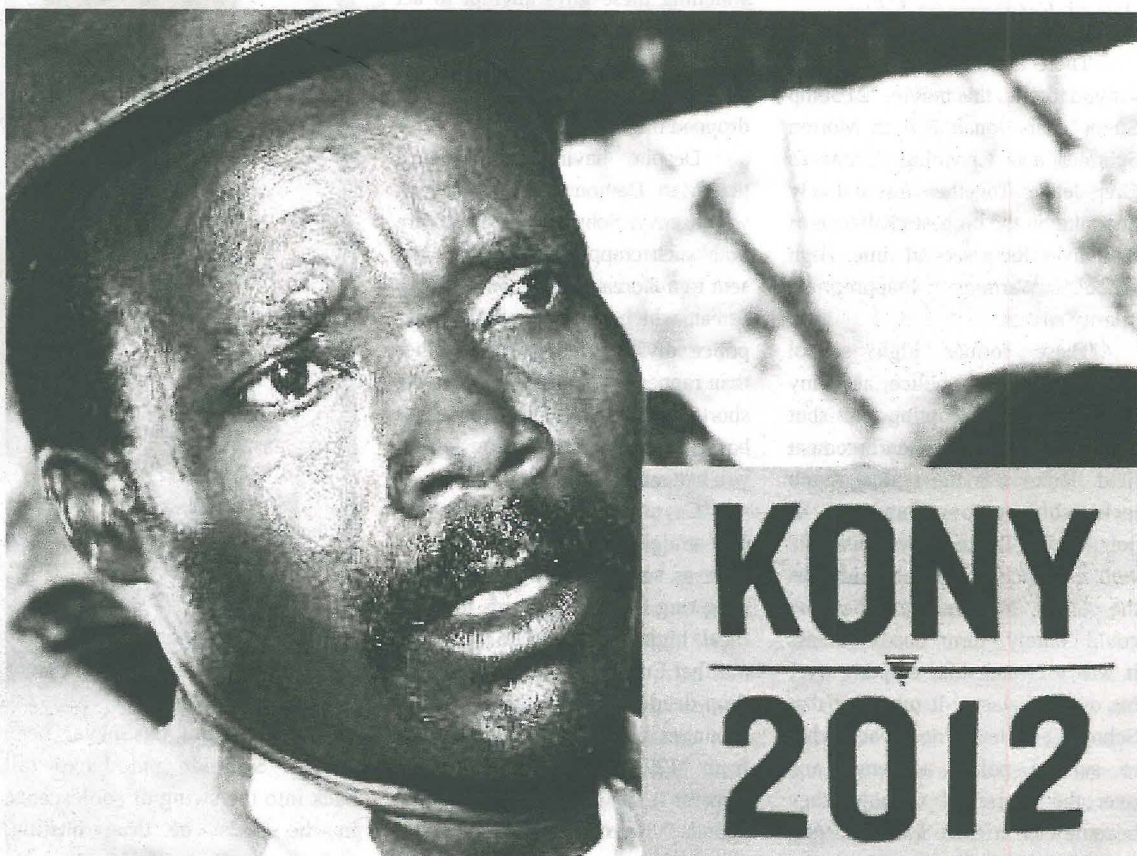
I am writing not to thwart the efforts of this movement, but to raise awareness to actually researching something before committing to it. It is really easy to follow the herd and mindlessly join the growing numbers

of the "Anti-Kony Campaign." But if all you did to make an "informed" decision was watch the video—you have some homework to do.

The video is too black and white. It portrays Uganda and Kony in an exaggerated, over-simplified light. Take a minute. Do the research and find out who Invisible Children, Inc. really is. Only once you actually understand what is happening should you fully commit to something, especially a movement based on a 30-minute video.

Now, I do think that Kony is indeed a bad person in need of a swift kick in the butt. Problem is, the list of people who need their butt kicked in 2012 is only growing; will the problem in Uganda actually end if Joseph Kony is gone? I really doubt the intentions of the campaign is based solely on the fact that the resolution to the Kony issue doesn't seem to be a productive one for the people of Uganda.

Al Jazeera, the independent news agency based out of Qatar, has been reporting on the Ugandan area for years, and many of their experts are skeptical of the results the Invisible Children campaign is looking for. One news package from Al Jazeera, as seen on YouTube,



Making Kony "famous" is not the right approach in assisting the people of Uganda.

COURTESY OF AFRIPOPMAG.COM

shows a crowd of people in Uganda watching the Kony 2012 video and the aftermath is shocking. Outrage and anger would be the best way to summarize their emotions. They

are angry because of the amount of attention Kony is receiving. I agree with their outrage, the focus of attention should be on the people of Uganda. Not a perpetrator from the

past. The people of Uganda need help just like hundreds of other countries. Removing Kony is minuscule compared to the real aid they need.

Rick Santorum and Sarah Palin: Archetypes of the real America

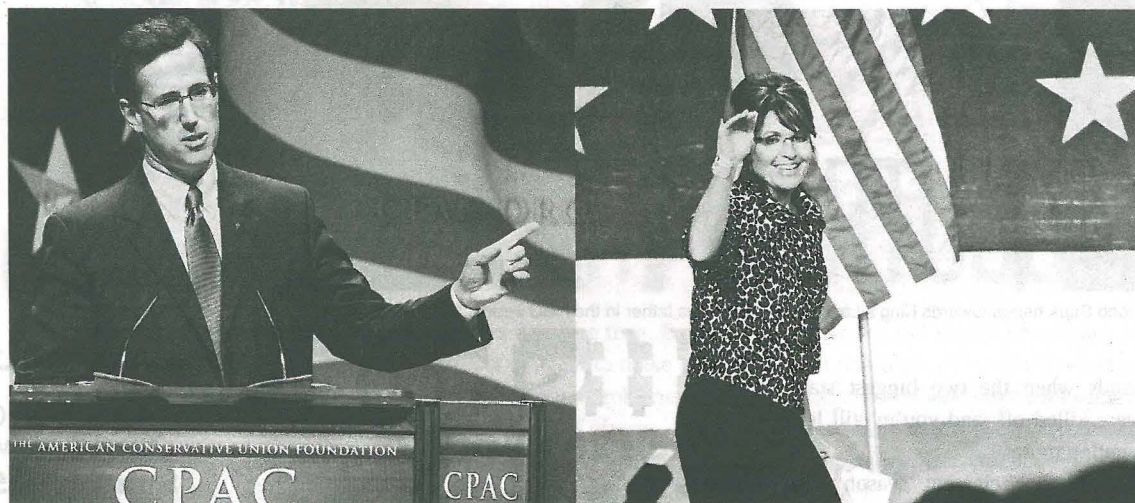
By: **Dean Gabriel Williams**
News Editor

It's easy to get caught up in a progressive, diverse America, especially when you live in a place like South Florida, where the minority is the majority, where English is secondary, and where an impoverished neighborhood is just around the corner from the street with the Mc Mansions.

City life, whether it's the South Florida megalopolis, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta, or any other major U.S. city, can be exciting and interesting. Most of America, however, looks at us as though we are the exception and not the rule.

You've probably never heard of Cutoff, La., Paris, Texas, or Cow Springs, Ariz. until now. But what you don't know is that, while we're living progressive, diverse lives in America's cities, a majority of Americans in cities like the ones listed are living traditional, conservative lives. This is the Real America; the America that shares similar values with current U.S. presidential candidate Rick Santorum and former U.S. vice presidential candidate, Sarah Palin.

On one side, we have a progressive America that elects politically correct, well-mannered, well-educated individuals to political office, in hopes to give the world the impression that we are, as country,



COURTESY OF HTTP://TEAPARTYCHEER.COM AND THEDAILYBEAST.COM

Whether you want to believe it or not—most Americans share the same beliefs as Santorum and Palin.

progressive and diverse.

One the other side of America, we have traditional America that elects individuals to political office based on gut feeling, on who won't take away their guns and their Bibles, on who will repeal Roe v. Wade and amend the Constitution to make marriage between one man and one woman, and one who will restore the glory of morals and religion in a seemingly value-less society.

No other individuals within the American Political Landscape personify traditional America more succinctly than Santorum and Sarah Palin. Neither believes that gay men and women should have the right to marry. Both are opposed to contraception and abortion. Neither believe that separation between

Church and State has, or should actually, occur. And while Rick Santorum hasn't said whether or not he can see Russia from his house, the campaign slogan "Made in America" tells us all we need to know about how he views the rest of the world.

Progressive America obviously has deep-rooted issues with Traditional America not because of their views and opinions, but because of the impression that traditional America gives the rest of the world about the U.S. The truth is, is that Americans don't want to face the truth about what our country is, so we do our best to fall in line with the political establishment and elect moderate Democrats and moderate Republicans to office.

We want the world to think that

we are diverse, progressive, and well-educated. The reality, however, is shocking: only 1/5 of Americans have college degrees; most Americans live in sub-standard conditions; and Americans are generally, socially conservative. In other words, by electing Barack Obama or Mitt Romney to office, we show the world a progressive America; but by electing Santorum or Palin to office, we show the world a traditional America.

So where does the confusion arise? The answer: social conservatism. Many associate social conservatism with the Republican Party, which is a major misconception. A typical black community in the U.S., for example, while it might be heavily democratic, is also socially conservative in nature.

While the wealthy tend to be progressive, those whose wealth

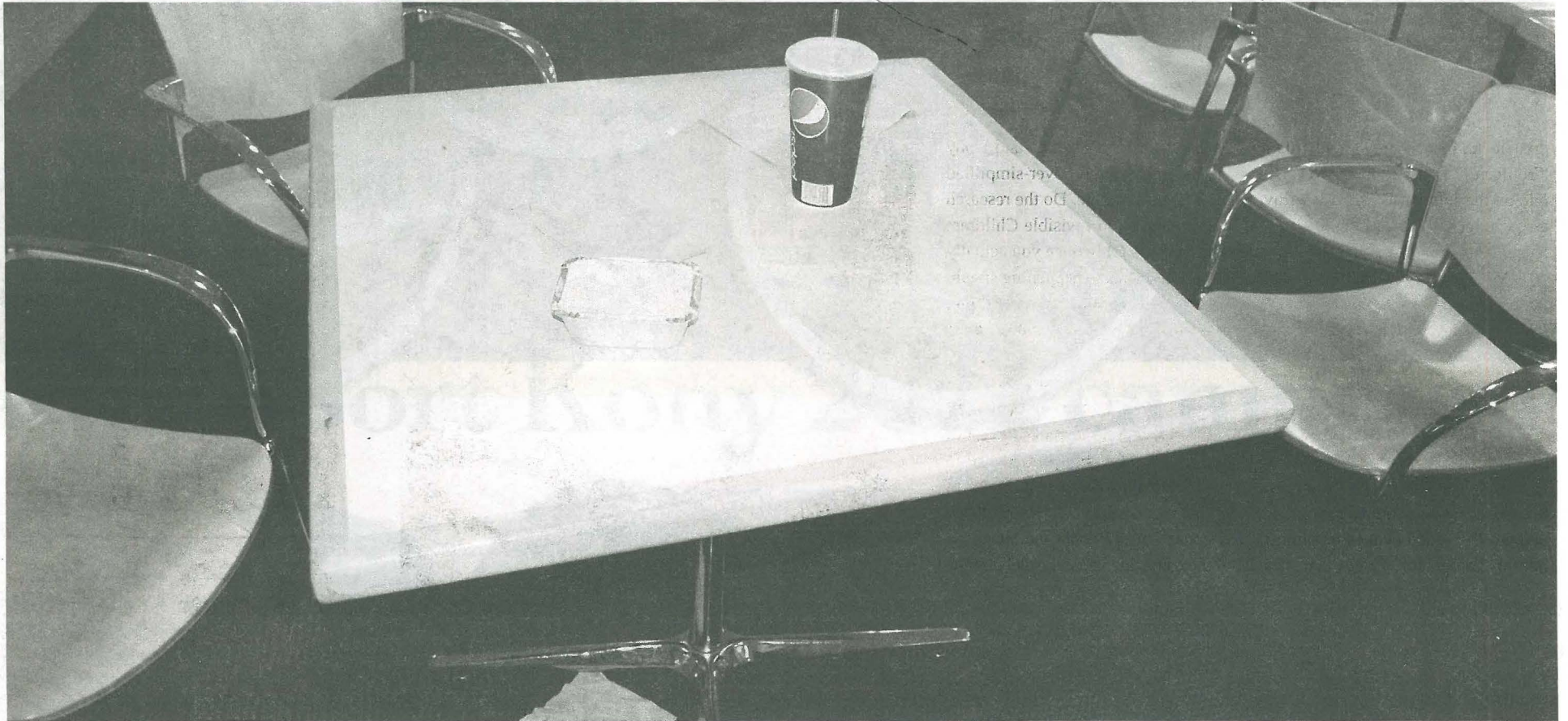
predate the civil rights movements of the 1960s and '70s tend to be socially conservative. White communities in the American south that are moderately democratic are so because they tend to be socially conservative.

In a country where 30 percent of the population identifies as Republican, another 30 percent as independent, and the remaining 40 percent as Democrat, the only political affiliation that cuts across all three, and often times is the determining factor in a vast majority of elections, are social conservatives. And if you're thinking to yourself, "This isn't true?" then think about Barack Obama's stand on gay marriage. Before he ran for the Office of President, he was pro-gay marriage. During the 2008 election and beyond, he's taken the stand that it's an issue for the states to solve.

And why exactly could that be? Because he's trying to secure the democratic base, as well as win votes from social conservatives, not independents.

So the next time you turn on your television to find Santorum or Palin issuing yet another social conservative doctrine to the American public, remember this before you pass judgment: social conservatism is the traditional and real America, and Santorum and Palin are its archetypes.

Pick up your trash and keep our campus beautiful



Don't leave behind your trash for others to pick up.

PHOTO BY D. YAHN

By: **Davis Yahn**
Opinions Editor

Dedicated. That is the shortest way for me to describe the NSU staff. Not just the academic staff, I mean every one: landscapers, librarians and student employees. You may not have noticed them, but I have been paying attention for the last couple of months, mentally noting the level of dedication that these fine men and women put

into their jobs. You could say they definitely take a bit of NSU pride with them to work each day.

Look around campus. More or less, the Davie campus is spotless — manicured lawns, beautiful topiary arrangements and palm tree debris is always quickly removed. However, there is one spot on campus that, no matter what, seems to lag behind in upkeep. The Don Taft University Center food court

seems to be lacking compared to the well-groomed outdoors I've come to know and love, and it's not because of the janitorial staff—it's because of the rest of us.

NSU community, this is your wake-up call. We have, by far, one of the most beautiful campuses in the state and it is being tarnished by lazy community members who leave behind their leftover utensils, dirty plates, crumpled up napkins, empty

soda cups and the lists go on. Clean up after yourselves people. You are not children. The staff who do clean the UC are not your parents. They are not there to pick up after every crumb from your pizza crust.

There is really no excuse for this type of behavior. It's not only rude to the staff, but also to campus visitors and other members of the NSU community. Who wants to sit at a table that has garbage all over

it? When the lunch rush comes every day, there are always at least a handful of people who have to clear a table of debris just so they have a somewhat sanitary place to put their delicious, expensive meals.

This is a call to action directed at the NSU community. Pick up after yourself. Throw away your garbage. Be considerate and help keep NSU beautiful.

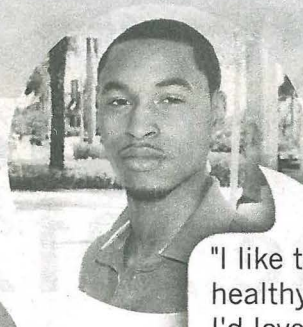
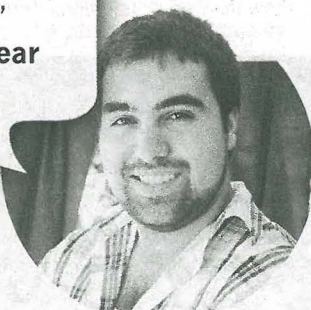
On the Scene: "What restaurants would you like to see on campus?"



"I just want to see healthier options on campus. I know we can't get away from processed foods — they are needed to feed such a large population. I just want cheaper, healthier alternatives to what we have now." **Rachel Berger, sophomore biology major**

"I would like to replace [Wild] Greens with a cheaper healthier place, but with the way things have been with the restaurants getting replaced, I would imagine it would only get worse. What we really need is a buffet with variety, which would be perfect for students." **Ian John, junior international studies major**

"I would love to see Denny's be replaced with a Chick-fil-A or a Steak 'n Shake. I don't like the food that Denny's offers." **Rainier Regueiro, first-year graduate law major**



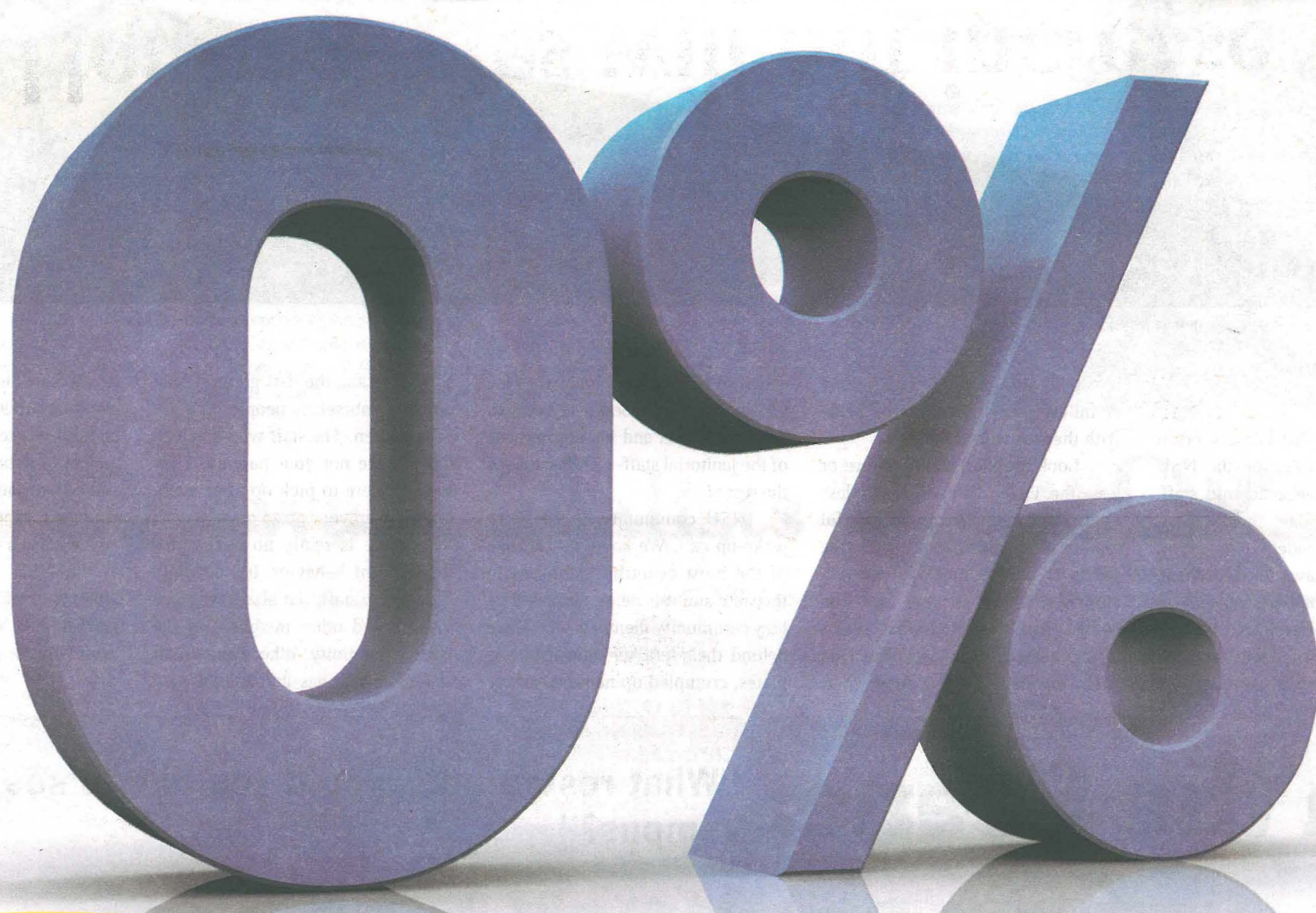
"I like to see something healthy, something less fried. I'd love to see a Chick-fil-A. I know it's fast food, but it actually tastes like real chicken." **Gregory Hinds, junior exercise sports science major and theatre minor**

"I would want to replace Chick-n-Grill with a Pollo Tropical. Their foods are better quality and cheaper than what we have on campus right now." **Paige Swalley, freshman biology neurological science major**



"I want to replace Denny's with IHOP. [IHOP]'s pancakes are actually good, and their breakfast items are way better." **Jonathan Clerge, junior communication studies major**





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for the 2012-2013 academic year.**

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